

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 447 - HB 456

March 24, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits individuals convicted of a felony for possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance on or after July 1, 2011, from being eligible from receiving Families First program and Food Stamp program benefits for a period of five years from the date of conviction.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Under current law, a person convicted of a felony drug offense, other than a Class A felony drug offense, is authorized to maintain eligibility for Families First and Food Stamp benefits if such person is participating in a drug treatment program, awaiting entry into a drug treatment program, completed treatment, or is determined not to need treatment. In addition, a person must be in compliance with all obligations imposed by the criminal court in order to maintain eligibility for the benefits.
- The proposed legislation would continue this exemption only for individuals convicted of a felony drug offense on or before June 30, 2011.
- There will be a not significant decrease in the number of people eligible for Families First program or Food Stamp program benefits as a result of the proposed prohibition. Any savings realized in these programs will be made available to serve additional eligible individuals resulting in a not significant net impact to Department expenditures.
- Any administrative cost to the Department of Human Services associated with the decrease can be accommodated within existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.
- There will be a not significant decrease in the number of people receiving substance abuse treatment services because of their ineligibility for Families First and Food Stamp program benefits. As a result, any savings realized from the decrease in reimbursements for substance abuse treatments from the Bureau of TennCare are estimated to be not significant.
- There will be a not significant number of these individuals who choose to pursue substance abuse treatment services on their own. The costs of providing substance abuse treatment to individuals who will no longer receive treatment through the Families First or Food Stamp programs, but will seek treatment on their own will shift from TennCare

to the Department of Mental Health. It is estimated that the net impact will not be significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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